What we claimed is

1. A method of manufacturing a glass article comprising the steps of heat softening a glass material that has been preformed and press molding the glass material with a pressing mold, characterized in that a glass material having a surface free energy of greater than or equal to 60 mJ/m^2 is fed to the heat softening step, and then fed to the press molding step.

2. The method of manufacturing according to claim 1, wherein the preformed glass material is washed to achieve a surface free energy of greater than or equal to 60 mJ/m^2, and kept in an atmosphere capable of maintaining a surface free energy of greater than or equal to 60 mJ/m^2 until the start of the heat softening step.

3. A method of manufacturing a glass article comprising the steps of heat softening a glass material that has been preformed and press molding the preformed glass material with a pressing mold, characterized in that a surface layer is formed on a preformed glass material having a surface free energy of greater than or equal to 60 mJ/m^2, and then the preformed glass material is fed to the heat softening step and press molding step.

4. The method of manufacturing according to claim 3, wherein the surface layer is a thin film comprised primarily of carbon with a film thickness of greater than or equal to 0.1 nanometer and less than or equal to 1 micrometer.

5. The method of manufacturing according to claim 3 or 4, wherein the preformed glass material is washed to achieve a surface free energy of greater than or equal to 60 mJ/m^2, and kept in an atmosphere capable of maintaining a surface free energy of greater than or equal to 60 mJ/m^2 until the surface layer is formed.